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Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CAIRO 16347 050946Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----------019379 051042Z /16
O 050936Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1068
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

S E C R E T CAIRO 16347
EXDIS
E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PROG PBOR PEPR EG IS US SA JO
SUBJECT: APPROACH TO SAUDIS AND JORDANIANS ABOUT
- MIDDLE EAST TALKS

REF: CAIRO 16319

1. AT JULY 4 RECEPTION LAST EVENING, FONMIN KAMEL REFERRED TO OUR TALK EARLIER IN THE DAY RE USG SUPPORTIVE DEMARCHES TO THE SAUDIS AND JORDANIANS ABOUT THE LONDON MEETING (REFTEL). HE WAS ESPECIALLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE JORDANIANS AND, DESPITE SADAT'S SKEPTICISM THAT KING HUSSEIN IS UNLIKELY TO SCREW UP THE COURAGE TO ENTER NEGOTIATIONS UNTIL AFTER "ALL THE DIRTY WORK IS DONE", KAMEL CONTINUES TO BELIEVE THAT WITH A BIT OF INDUCEMENT THE JORDANIANS MIGHT BE WILLING TO PARTICIPATE. SAID HE HAD JUST SPOKEN TO ARAB LEAGUE SYG MAHMOUD RIAD, WHO HAD ALSO GAINED THE IMPRESSION FROM RECENT TALKS WITH THE JORDANIANS THAT WITH A BIT OF USG ENCOURAGEMENT AS TO WHAT KIND OF A WEST BANK/GAZA OUTCOME IT WILL WORK FOR, KING HUSSEIN MIGHT BE PERSUADED TO GO ALONG.

2. IN ABOVE CONTEXT, KAMEL MADE STRONG PLEA THAT WE
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PRESS JORDANIANS HARD NOT ONLY TO SUPPORT THE LONDON MEETING, BUT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE NEGOTIATIONS BY GIVING THEM SOME KIND OF USG "GUARANTEE" THAT WE WILL ACTIVELY WORK FOR ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM THE WEST BANK. I TOLD KAMEL NO ONE CAN GUARANTEE WHAT FINAL OUTCOME OF NEGOTIATIONS WILL BE, BUT HE KNEW OUR POSITION ON WEST BANK/GAZA WITHDRAWAL TO 67 LINES WITH

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MINOR RECTIFICATIONS AND I WAS SURE JORDANIANS ARE ALSO AWARE OF THIS. KAMEL AGREED, BUT SAID EGYPTIANS, JORDANIANS AND OTHERS WANT TO KNOW HOW FAR USG IS WILLING GO TO PRESS ISRAELIS TO ACCEPT THIS CONCEPT. HE RECALLED HUSSEIN HAD TOLD MUBARAK THAT VARIOUS US ADMINISTRATIONS HAVE GIVEN HIM ASSURANCES RE ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL, BUT THAT THE KING HAD COMPLAINED USG HAS NOT YET SEEN FIT TO PRESS ISRAELIS ON THE MATTER.
EILTS

NOTE BY OC/T: EXDIS CAPTION ADDED PER MR. SCOTT, S/S-O.

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